

In early 2010, due to the problems and weaknesses identified in assessment administration, the State Tax Commission eliminated all assessor education programs and directed staff to develop and implement new education programs under a three year pilot. The new programs were to focus on providing current and new assessing officers with a more quality and professional education that addressed the problems and weaknesses.

A great deal was learned through the MMAO programs that were held during the three year pilot. Most importantly, that good preparation and hard work are the keys to being successful in the MMAO program. Based on these findings, on September 25, 2013 the Commission approved significant changes to the Master Level Program. The changes are detailed below and will be implemented on May 1, 2015.

The program will be conducted as a single program that will include all required course work and completion of the case study. Before individuals can apply to the new program, they must hold a Michigan Advanced Assessing Officer (3) certification for a minimum of two years.

In order to implement these new requirements as fairly as possible, any individual who has completed all the old prerequisite courses, successfully completed the MMAO Entrance Exam and applies by March 1, 2014, is eligible for consideration to complete the old one year MMAO program in 2014 or 2015. Any of these eligible individuals who do not wish to complete the old one year program may apply to the new MMAO program in either 2015 or 2016 for half price.

Any individual currently holding an MAAO certification who is not eligible to apply to the old program by March 1, 2014 will be given credit that will be applied to the new program. This credit will be based upon how many old MMAO prerequisite courses successfully completed as of January 1, 2014.

Many of the MMAO pre-requisite courses are offered through Michigan Assessors Association (MAA) in Traverse City from October 7 thru October 11. More information is available on the MAA website. Individuals who are **currently** registered to take an MMAO pre-requisite course with the MAA at Traverse City, and wish to cancel their course reservation may do so without penalty by contacting MAA prior to the start of the course.

The State Tax Commission is committed to providing a quality education that properly and adequately prepares assessing officers to hold the MMAO certification and would like to encourage assessing officers to continue pursuing their assessing education under the new format.

Additional information regarding the new MMAO Program will be located on the Commission's website at www.michigan.gov/statetaxcommission as it becomes available.